

# Obama's Middle East Policy

## Between the Arab Uprising and Syria

A lecture by **Prof. Dr. Steven Heydemann**  
Center for Middle East Policy, Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.

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The talk will deal with the Obama administration's Middle East policy, with a special focus on Syria and the response to the uprisings. It will also discuss Obama's general orientation toward foreign policy and how much of a departure his approach is from the consensus that has largely defined US foreign policy for several decades.

### **Steven Heydemann**

is Professor and Janet W. Ketcham 1953 Chair of Middle East Studies at Smith College, and a non-resident senior fellow in the Center for Middle East Policy of the Brookings Institution. From 2007-2015 he held a number of leadership positions at the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) in Washington, D.C. He consults widely with the US government and European governments on issues relating to Syria policy and the status of the Syrian conflict and directed USIP's Syria program, including The Day After project (TDA), in which the Institute facilitated a transition planning process for Syria with the Syrian opposition. His research focuses on comparative politics and the political economy of the Middle East, with a particular focus on Syria. His interests include authoritarian governance, economic development, social policy, political and economic reform and civil society.